

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 98 EXBD: ARABS BOYCOTT BOARD SESSION

IN RETALIATION FOR AFRICAN SUPPORT OF RE-
GIONAL GROUP DECISION

1. ARAB BOARD MEMBERS BOYCOTTED MORNING BOARD SESSION
OCTOBER 9 IN RETALIATION FOR KEY AFRICAN SUPPORT OF
REGIONAL ACTIVITY GROUP RESOLUTION VOTED LATE OCTOBER 8.
SPECIFICALLY, ARABS DID NOT ATTEND BOARD DISCUSSION AND
VOTE OF ITEM 6.3, RESOLUTION 98 EX/DR.10 RE HOLDING OF
19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. MAURITANIA,
PROBABLY BY VIRTUE ITS SPLIT ARAB-BLACK AFRICAN

IDENTITY, WAS PRESENT BUT DID NOT VOTE AT SESSION FROM
WHICH TUNISIA, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT WERE AB-
SENT. ARABS ATTEMPTED TO REVERSE THEIR TACTICAL ERROR
BY MAKING DECLARATION AT OCTOBER 9 AFTERNOON SESSION
WITH EXPLANATION THAT THEY ABSENT DUE ARAB CAUCUS AND
WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR RESOLUTION IF PRESENT. NEVERTHE-
LESS, AFRICANS ALL AWARE THAT ONLY JUST OVER TWO
HUNDRED DOLLARS HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED SO FAR (BY UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES) OF ALL ARAB NATIONS TO SPECIAL ACCOUNT
FOR NAIROBI. FUND NOW HAS JUST OVER \$16,000.

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2. VOTE ON NAIROBI RESOLUTION WAS 28 FOR (US) TO ONE AGAINST (FRG) TO ONE ABSTENTION (FRANCE). RESOLUTION, IN FACT, MAKES NO RPT NO FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF UNESCO FUNDS NOW, PUTTING OFF FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO 99TH BOARD SESSION NEXT SPRING, AND PERMITTING CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT TO WHICH MEMBER STATES INVITED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NAIROBI MEETING. US PERMREP EXPLAINED VOTE FOR AS BASED ON US HOPE THAT GOK WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO HAVE THE 19TH GENERAL CONF. WITHOUT ANY CHANGE IN UNESCO BUDGET, BUT UNDERLINED US "STILL OPPOSED" TO HOLDING SUCH MEETINGS AWAY FROM UN AGENCY HEADQUARTERS.

3. COMMENT: SENEGALESE AND KENYAN PERMDELOFFS TOLD DELOFF THAT ARAB ABSENCE FROM BOARD SESSION WAS A STUDIED INSULT WHICH ANGERED BUT DID NOT INTIMIDATE BLACK AFRICANS. KENYAN PERMREP NOTED THAT ARABS HAD PREVIOUSLY PREACHED SOLIDARITY AND CONSENSUS BETWEEN AFRICANS AND ARABS BUT HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS MEANS BLACK AFRICANS MUST ALWAYS ACQUIESCE.

3. ARABS AND AFRICANS, OF COURSE, CONTINUED TO HAVE STRONG COMMON INTERESTS BUT THIS CLEARLY INDICATES AFRICANS WILLING TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY AND OVERRIDE ARAB OBJECTIONS IN CLEAR-CUT CASES OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS.

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